

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/814,549

Examiner

Thomas K. Pham

Applicant(s)

TICHY ET AL.

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to after final amendment filed 1/12/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-6, 8-13, 15-18, 20-22 and 29.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Keith M. Baxter on 01/18/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 30 is now cancelled.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 2-6, 8-13, 15-18, 20-22 and 29 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While Nwana et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,805) discloses displaying workflow of a plurality of agents interacting with one another in a whole society using a Society Tool and a Report Tool of a visualizer. The Society Tool allows a user to select a set of agents and view the structural organization relationships and the messaging between them. The Report Tool displays the general behavior of the society as a whole.

And Miyazaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,977) discloses a multi-agent cooperating system which is capable of being applied to plurality of users with a simple composition and of performing efficient processing. The system comprises an agent group composed of a plurality of agents for providing services to the user, a user definition storing section for storing personal

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information such as user preferences for the options when requesting a service, and a user agent for converting the request from the user into an appropriate form with reference to the contents in the user definition storing section and transmitting them to the agent group, or transmitting the value of the attributes of the user with reference to the user definition storing section when user characteristics are requested from the agent group.

The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in conjunction with all the other claimed limitations, a system for allowing a user to interact with a multi-agent distributed control system having all the claimed features of applicant's instant invention, specifically including: the user interface includes a second window, wherein across a top portion of the second window are listed the agents between which messages of the first list were sent, wherein a plurality of arrows representative of the messages between the listed agents connect the respective vertical lines corresponding to the listed agents between which the messages were sent; wherein the amounts of communication are calculated based upon one of sums of numbers of messages and sums of bytes communicated per unit time, wherein the statistical information can be limited to a subset of statistical information corresponding to at least one of an agent subset, a message subset and a time period; wherein the user interface displays information in at least one of a on-line mode of operation and an off-line mode of operation, wherein in the on-line mode of operation the information that is displayed by the user interface concerns operations of the multi-agent system that are presently occurring, wherein in the off-line mode of operation the information that is displayed by the user interface concerns operations of the multi-agent system that have already occurred; wherein the agent-related information displayed on the user interface is at least one of information concerning

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current operation of the agents and information concerning past operation of the agent, wherein when the agent-related information concerns past operation of the agents, the agent-related information is obtained from a storage device that has recorded the information during the past operation of the agents, etc., as set forth in the claims.

Also, there is no motivation to combine the Nwana et al. reference with the Miyazaki reference to meet these limitations. It is for these reasons that applicant's invention defines over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thomas Pham*; whose telephone number is (571) 272-3689, Monday to Friday from 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM EST or contact Supervisor *Mr. Anthony Knight* at (571) 272-3687.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas Pham

Primary Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'thym' followed by a stylized flourish.

January 19, 2007